

Commission to Memorialize the Contributions of All Rhode Island Women, which was established in May 2001 to address the notable lack of female figures in the State House statuary. After reviewing thousands of nominations, the Commission selected Chace for her many contribution to Rhode Island, and I wish to recognize some of her notable achievements.

Born in 1806 in Smithfield, Elizabeth Buffum was raised as a Quaker. Her life was strongly molded by the values of independence and simplicity instilled in her by her family. Her passion for justice first became evident in the 1830s when she campaigned against slavery. Founder of the Fall River Anti-Slavery Society, she mounted a door-to-door campaign to further the abolitionist cause, and she and her husband, Samuel Chace, often hid fugitive slaves in their home. So passionate was Chace about abolitionism that she ultimately severed ties with her beloved Quaker roots because the religion would not strengthen its position against slavery.

Upon returning to Rhode Island, Chace continued her anti-slavery efforts and also spoke out in favor of women's suffrage and temperance—two of her greatest passions. As one of the founders of the Rhode Island Women's Suffrage Association, she objected to the political and social subjugation of women and advocated the admission of women to Brown University. Additionally, she tackled the unpopular issues of homelessness and prison reform, simultaneously making enemies and progress. Throughout these campaigns, she never neglected her family and was a caring and dedicated mother to her ten children. She maintained her strong spirit until her death in 1899 at the age of 93, having written an article just one year earlier for the *Women's Journal*, a suffrage newspaper.

Chace is certainly an apt choice as the first Rhode Island woman honored by a State House statue, though I am confident that today merely marks the beginning of a greater trend in recognizing remarkable women in the halls of the Rhode Island Capitol. I wish to thank my good friend, Secretary of State Edward Inman, for his vision and leadership in trumpeting the accomplishments of women in our great state, and I look forward to working with him on other important initiatives to enhance the civic pride of all Rhode Islanders.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE GALLAGHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize an extraordinary man whose kindness and good deeds embody the spirit of Colorado, and this nation. Charlie Gallagher is a pillar of the Denver, Colorado community, but the impact of his contributions reaches beyond the city to touch the entire state. In recognition of Charlie's many accomplishments and philanthropic generosity, the Ancient Order of Hibernians chose him as the 2002 Irish Person of the Year. This is a distinguished achievement that recognizes the dedication and commitment of an individual to his or her community. As Charlie celebrates this achievement, I would like to take this opportunity

to acknowledge his kindly spirit before this body of Congress.

Charlie Gallagher has overcome numerous obstacles in his life and has used his experience to help others overcome similar circumstances. He started out in an inner-city Irish neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio, living in a house where ten family members shared one bathroom and three bedrooms. The grandson of Irish immigrants, Charlie's family instilled in him the values of education, hard work and determination. It is this foundation which Charlie used to found Gallagher Enterprises LC, an extraordinarily successful private equity firm in Colorado. Like many Americans, Charlie rose from hardship to prosperity, but has remained true to his roots. He has adopted the motto, "if you've been blessed and if you've been lucky, you gotta give back". He has lived his life accordingly.

Charlie funded the establishment of several buildings and additions for many educational institutions, ranging from grade school to higher education institutions, in his home state of Ohio. For almost twelve years, he has supported over 100 students from underprivileged backgrounds by providing them with full tuition, room and board. Beginning this year, Charlie has pledged to fully fund 100 students at Denver's Metro State College for five years. In addition to his philanthropic contributions, Charlie continues to serve his community as a board member of the Metropolitan State College of Denver Foundation, Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of Denver and the National Jewish Medical & Research Center. He is a Trustee of the Irish Community Center and the Vice Chairman of the Denver Art Museum. In addition, he helped to raise \$50 million for the art museum and was instrumental in securing city bonding for the museum's expansion. To continue his generous support of the community, Charlie and his family frequently donate their time, money, and energy through the Gallagher Family Foundation of the Denver Foundation. This organization gives generously to numerous causes every year and serves as a model for philanthropic foundations throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Gallagher is an extraordinary individual and it is my pleasure to bring forth his accomplishments and generosity before this body of Congress, and this nation. Charlie's life serves as an example for anyone who has ever faced and overcome adversity in their life. Charlie, thank you for all you have done for the State of Colorado and good luck in your future endeavors.

ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to improve the way the federal government is working to reduce the risk of wildfire damage in the most vulnerable communities of Colorado and other states.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Representative JOEL HEFLEY

and my close colleague from New Mexico, Representative TOM UDALL. We have worked closely in its development and I greatly appreciate their support.

The bill deals with the fuel-reduction program that is a key part of the National Fire plan. Under that program, the land-managing agencies remove brush and other material that can fuel high-intensity fires through techniques such as burning ("prescribed fires"), mechanical thinning, vegetation control (such as defensible space around homes and buildings) or timber removal.

I have supported that program, but have had some questions about the way the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the other land-managing agencies have been implementing it. So, I joined a number of our colleagues in the House and Senate in asking the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the steps the agencies have taken so far to see if improvements should be made.

GAO has now completed that review and submitted a report that includes a number of recommendations. This bill would require that those recommendations be adopted. I am attaching a fact sheet that outlines the main provisions of the bill, as well as the "Results in Brief" portion of the GAO report.

The GAO highlighted the need for two things—more and better interagency coordination, and better focus on identifying and responding to the highest-risk communities in the wildland/urban interface area.

Improvements in these matters are important nationally, but they are particularly important for Colorado and other western states. That is because Colorado, like other Western states, has been experiencing ever more growth and development in and near forested areas. We are seeing more people, structures and investments placed at risk.

It is this increasing risk to people and property—increasing because of growth as well as because of the unnatural forest conditions that we have created in many forests in Colorado through decades of fire suppression policies—that led to my interest in focusing on questions of wildlife management. And two particular things then lead me to take action.

First, I took a tour of an area west of Boulder, Colorado, called Winiger Ridge. It is near an area where there was a major forest fire in 1989. Following that fire, a number of citizens, along with the Forest Service and Boulder County officials, got together to find a way to reduce the danger of a repetition of such a dangerous blaze. That group's efforts ultimately led to the identification of conditions that lead to wildfire risks and the recommendation that some steps be taken to reduce that risk. The Winiger Ridge area was chosen as a location to explore some of these techniques—which involve some mechanical thinning and some controlled burning. When I toured this area and learned of the issues and the proposed strategy, I was struck by the condition of the forest—a condition of dense stands of small diameter trees—and, more importantly, I was very concerned about the homes and families that reside within this area. These homes and families are literally in the path of a possible major fire that could be devastating.

It was important to identify this Winiger Ridge area because soon after my tour of it, another fire arose there in the summer of 2000, called the Walker Ranch fire. That fire

threatened a number of mountain homes just west of Boulder. However, no structure was damaged because treatment with prescribed fire and vegetative thinning resulted in conditions that led the fire to drop to the ground and be more easily controlled. Had this not been done in previous years, the fire could have been much more devastating.

That fire, and other devastating fires in Colorado and throughout the west, was the second event that strongly affected my thinking about this subject. I was interested in what I might do to address the problem and to try to lessen the dangers to our communities in ways that still recognized the need for sound management of forest lands and proper protection for their most sensitive areas.

An early opportunity came when the House took up the appropriations bill for the Forest Service for fiscal year 2001. Reviewing the bill as it came to the floor, Representative Hefley and I were struck by the fact that the Appropriations Committee was proposing to reduce the funding for the wildland fire management account by some \$4 million. In response, we offered an amendment to restore that funding that was approved by the House by a solid vote of 364 to 55.

Then, after consulting a number of experts, I developed and introduced a bill intended to focus directly on our situation here in Colorado. It was cosponsored by Representative HELFLY and by Representative TANCREDO and DEGETTE as well. To put it in its simplest terms, our bill was intended to promote and facilitate efforts like the Winiger Ridge project, and thus help reduce the risk of a repeat of this past fire season, in the parts of Colorado that are at greatest risk of such disasters. That bill was not enacted itself, but its main principles were included in the fuel-reduction part of the National Fire Plan. And I have continued to work to make sure that this important fuel-reduction work was done the right way and in the right places.

Since then, I have strongly supported the appropriation of funds for this purpose—but I have been concerned Congress has not done enough to spell out appropriate guidelines for their use, such as staying away from wilderness and roadless areas and ensuring that the projects are carefully targeted to protect the people who are at greatest risk from wildfires.

We need to be very careful not to overcompensate for past shortcomings in working to reduce fuels. Fire is a natural part of our forests and eliminating fire from the landscape—as we tried to do for many years—was a big part of what produced the situation we now have. But the risks to people, property and the environment from creating this unnatural condition should not be used to justify a wholesale return to nearly-unrestricted timber cutting, as some seem to want.

We need instead to have a careful, appropriate program of fuel reduction that is based on good science and focused where it is most needed—on the at-risk communities in the wildland/urban interface. The purpose of this bill is to help make that a reality.

FACT SHEET ON BILL TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

The scale and intensity of forest fires in 2000 made that fire season one of the worst in 50 years. In response, the Agriculture and Interior Departments revised fire-management policies and congress approved increases in funding accompanied by policy directives.

This combination of policies and directives is known as the National Fire Plan.

A major part of the plan is reduction of hazardous fuels, in order to lessen the intensity of future fires. The primary agencies doing this work on federal and tribal lands are the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Methods used include burning ("prescribed fires"), mechanical thinning, vegetation control (defensible space), and timber cutting.

The fire plan calls for giving priority to fuel-reduction projects that will reduce the risk to communities in the "wildland/urban interface" (where development borders or intermingles with forested areas).

GAO REPORT

GAO reviewed the implementation of the fuel-reduction part of the National Fire Plan and reported the results in January, 2002 with several recommendations for improvements. This bill is based on that GAO report.

THE BILL

Purpose.—The purpose of the bill is to improve implementation of the fuel-reduction aspects of the National Fire Plan in the wildland/urban interface.

What the Bill Does.—The bill would:

Require Interior and Agriculture Departments to establish an interagency council to coordinate fire plan implementation, as recommended by GAO.

Require the coordinating council to develop consistent criteria to identify communities in the wildland/urban interface at most risk from fire, as recommended by GAO. The council would have 180 days to do this.

Require development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for implementing the National Fire Plan, with quantifiable annual and long-term performance measures to assess progress in reducing risks to most vulnerable communities.

Require the coordinating council to collect data needed to enable Interior and Agriculture Departments to determine best ways to use removed fuel materials, as recommended by GAO.

Require the coordinating council to consult with State, local, and tribal officials and provide for public comments.

Require that fuel-reduction work give priority to communities in the wildland/urban interface most at risk.

Require a progress report from Interior and Agriculture Departments no later than one year after enactment.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

Our work has shown that a single focal point is critical for efforts—such as reducing severe wildland fires and the vegetation that fuels them—that involve many federal agencies as well as state and local governments, the private sector, and private individuals. However, over a year after the Congress substantially increased funds to reduce hazardous fuels, the federal effort still lacks clearly defined and effective leadership. Rather than a single focal point, authority and responsibility remain fragmented among Interior, the Forest Service, and the states. In a December 2001 report for the Department of the Interior, the National Academy of Public Administration recommended that, to provide the required leadership, the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture should establish an interagency national council to implement the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy as well as hazardous fuels reduction and other key elements of the National Fire Plan, such as fire suppression.

A sound framework to ensure that funds appropriated to reduce hazardous fuels are

spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner is needed. Such a framework is grounded in federal wildland fire management policies, the National Fire Plan, and Congressional direction. This framework includes, among other things, (1) consistent criteria to identify and prioritize wildland-urban interface communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from severe wildlands fires; (2) clearly defined and outcome-oriented goals and objectives, as well as quantifiable long-term and annual performance measures, to assess progress in reducing the risks of severe wildland fires in wildland-urban interface areas as well as in other areas; (3) a comprehensive long-term strategy that incorporates the criteria, goals, objectives, and measures; and (4) yearly performance plans and reports. However, just as leadership for reducing hazardous fuels is fragmented among Interior, the Forest Service, and the states, so too is implementation of a performance accountability framework. As a result, (1) high-risk communities have not been identified and prioritized, (2) multiple strategies have been developed with different goals and objectives, (3) quantifiable indicators of performance have not been developed to measure progress in reducing risks, and (4) annual plans and reports that have been developed do not describe what will be accomplished with the appropriated funds. Therefore, it is not possible to determine if the \$796 million appropriated for hazardous fuels reduction in fiscal years 2001 and 2002 is targeted to the communities and other areas at highest risk of severe wildland fires.

Federal land management agencies do not have adequate data for making informed decisions and measuring the agencies' progress in reducing hazardous fuels. These processes require accurate, complete, and comparable data. The infusion of hundreds of millions of dollars of new money for hazardous fuels reduction activities for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 and the expectation of sustained similar funding for these activities in future fiscal years accentuate the need for accurate, complete, and comparable data. However, the five federal land management agencies have not initiated the research needed to better identify and prioritize wildland-urban interface communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildland fire. Moreover, the agencies are not collecting the data required to determine if changes are needed to expedite the project-planning process. They are also not collecting the data needed to measure the effectiveness of efforts to dispose of the large amount of brush, small trees, and other vegetation that must be removed to reduce the risk of severe wildland fire.

We agree with the National Academy of Public Administration that an interagency national council is needed to provide the strategic direction, leadership, coordination, conflict resolution, and oversight and evaluation necessary to ensure that funds appropriated to implement the hazardous fuels reduction, as well as other elements of the National Fire Plan, are spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner. However, even though the September 2000 National Fire Plan—prepared at the request of the President of the United States—directed them to establish a similar Cabinet-level coordinating team, the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture have not done so. Therefore, we suggest that the Congress consider directing the Secretaries to immediately establish the council. In addition, we suggest that the Congress consider directing the Secretaries to consolidate under the council the current fragmented implementation of a sound performance accountability framework. We also recommend that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture gather

the data to make more informed decisions and to measure the agencies' progress in reducing hazardous fuels. The departments of Agriculture and the Interior generally agreed with our recommendations. However, they were concerned that we had not given them enough credit for several actions taken or underway related to enhancing inter-agency leadership; establishing a framework to ensure that funds appropriated to reduce hazardous fuels are spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner; and undertaking adequate research and data collection efforts. Where appropriate, we have included reference to these activities.

TRAIN ATTACK IN INDIA REACTION TO HINDU REPRESSION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we were all disturbed to read about the attack on a train full of Hindus in the village of Godhra in India. It is always disturbing to see this kind of sectarian violence.

The Gujarat Samachar reported that the train was carrying high-level activists of the militant, pro-Nazi Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a branch of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which is also the parent organization of the ruling BJP. They were taunting the villagers with slogans about building a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP some years ago.

In another village, Daahod, they got tea and snacks and did not pay for them. They knocked over a vendor's stall, according to the article, and deliberately picked a fight with a man who was helping the vendor, beating him, pulling his beard and committing other acts to humiliate him. His 16-year-old daughter tried to stop them from harming her father. They grabbed her and took her on the train, according to the article. After a crowd gathered to try to rescue her from the VHP, they slammed the windows shut with the girl inside the train. Out of their frustration and anger over this action, some villagers began to burn the train.

No one condones the killing of these Hindus, even if they were militants, but I hope none of my colleagues justifies the killing of Muslims that has erupted in response while the police have stood by and let it happen. The militant Hindu nationalists want to make a Hindu society in India, and they can justify actions like these in the name of that cause, but there is no justification.

If this is how democracy and secularism are practiced in India, then it should not receive any American aid or trade. We should also acknowledge that the only way to end this kind of violence is to support independence for all the peoples and nations of South Asia. It is time for India to begin acting like a democracy and allow the peoples living under their rule to

enjoy self-determination. It is time for a plebiscite on independence.

[From Gujarat Samachar, Mar. 3, 2002]

TRUTH ABOUT THE TRAIN INCIDENT

(By Anil Soni and Neelam Soni)

The tragic incident of Sabarmati Express that occurred today at 7:30 am at about 1 km away from Godhra railway station has thrown a question mark to those people who claim to be secular or liberal. Many aspects & facts have been ignored & which I would like to bring to your notice.

Compartment (Bogey) no S-6 & two other compartment of the Sabarmati Express was carrying the kar sevaks of the V.H.P. (Vishwa Hindu Parishad). And it was due to these kar sevaks from bogey no S-6 that the incident occurred.

The actual story didn't start from Godhra as being told everywhere but it started from a place from Daahod, a place that comes 70-75 km before Godhra railway station. At about 5:30-6:00 a.m. the train reached Daahod railway station. These kar sevaks, after having tea & snacks at the railway stall, broke down the stall after having some argument with the stall owner and they processed back to the departing train. The stall owner then field on N C against kar sevaks at the local police station about the above incident.

Then about 7:00-7:15 am the train reached Godhra railway station. All the kar sevaks came out from their reserved compartments and started to have tea and snacks, at the small tea stall on the platform, which was being run by an old bearded man from the minority community. There was a servant helping this old man in the stall.

The kar sevaks on purpose argued with this old man and then bate him up & pulled his beard. This was all planned to humiliate the old man since he was from the minority community. These kar sevaks kept repeating the slogan, "Mandir Ka Nirmaann Karo, Babuer Ki Aulad to Baahar Kar". (Start building the Mandir and throw the sones of Babur i.e. the Muslims out of the country.)

Hearing the chaos, the daughter (16) of the old man who was also present at the station came forward & tried to save her father from kar sevaks. She kept pleading & begging to them to stop beating her father and leave him alone. But instead of listening to her woes, the kar sevaks lifted the young girl and took her inside their compartment (S-6) and closed the compartment door shut. Their intention behind this act is best known to them.

The train started to move out of the platform of Godhra railway station. The old man kept banging on the compartment doors and pleaded to leave his daughter. Just before the train could move out completely from the platform, two stall vendors jumped into the last bogey that comes from the guards cabin. And with the intention of saving the girl they pulled the chain and stopped the train. By the time the train halted completely, it was 1 km away from the railway station.

These two men then came to the bogey in which the girl was and started to band at the door and requested the kar sevaks to leave the girl alone. Hearing all these chaos, people vicinity near to the tracks started to gather towards the train. The boys and the mob (that also included women) that had

now gathered near the compartment requested the kar sevaks to return the girl back. But instead of returning the girl, they started closing their windows. The infuriated the mob and they retaliated by pelting stones at the compartment.

The compartment-adjointing compartment S-6 on both sides contained kar sevaks of the V.H.P. These kar sevaks were carrying banners that had long bamboo stick attached to them. These kar sevaks got down and started attacking with bamboo sticks on the mob gathered to save the girl.

These was like adding insult to injury for the crowd gathered and their anger was now uncontrollable. The crowd started to bring diesel and petrol from trucks and rickshaws standing at the garages Signal Fadia (a place in Godhra) and burnt down the compartment. They don't bring the fuel from any petrol pump as being reported everywhere nor was this act of burning pre-planned as being mentioned by many people but it happened all of a sudden out of sheer frustration and anger.

After hearing about this incident, members of V.H.P. (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) living in that area started burning down the garages in Signal Fadia, they also burnt down Baddshah Masjid, (Mosque), at Shehra Bhagaad (small area in Godhra). Reliable resources have reported all these information and facts to their information and me cannot be doubted. I would also mention my sources namely Mr. Anil Soni and Neelam Soni (reporter of Gujarat Samachar, also members of P.T.I. & A.N.I.) have worked hard to dig the true facts and they duly deserve words of appraisal for their hard work. Mr. Soni's mobile number: 0-9825038152. Resident number 02672 (code) 43153, office number: 43152, fax number: 45999.

Due to no proper substantial and circumstantial evidence and the late arrival of the Police at the scene of crime frustrated the Police. Which resulted in harassment and arrests in innocent local people living in Godhra. Furthermore the police started blaming the Mayor of Godhra, Mr. Ahmed Hussain Kalota for incident. Mr. Kalota who is the member of the Indian National Congress is also a lawyer. This blaming on Congressmen was also done to humiliate, defame and demoralize the Congress. The V.H.P.'s plan is to weaken the country by planning internal conflicts between communities and bring a backwardness of 100 years in the country. Sorry to say but they are carrying out their plans successfully without the fear of being stopped by anyone. No one but only the innocents will have to bear the consequences of their plans.

It is our humble request and prayers to all the members of Parliament along with the Prime Minister, and the entire media circle to try and stop the sparks of a fire to gulp down the whole country in flames to take some auction against the kar sevaks of the V.H.P. (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) before they get out of hand and stop harassing the innocents and catch the real miscreants and culprits.

We lay our request in front of you with folded hands and hearts filled with theirs for the death of innocents and anger for the wrongdoers. We hope our request and efforts will not deafened or blind-eyed.